

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. May 26, 1965. Paul Mellon, President of the National Gallery of Art, announced that Huntington Cairns, Secretary, Treasurer, and General Counsel of the Gallery since 1943, will retire on June 30, 1965.

Mr. Mellon said, "The Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art is profoundly saddened at Mr. Cairns' decision to retire from active participation in the affairs of the Gallery. His wise counsel and distinguished scholarship have been major forces in bringing this young institution to the front rank of the great national art galleries of the world since its opening only 24 years ago. The Director of the Gallery, Mr. John Walker, joins the Board in expressing our deep gratitude to Mr. Cairns for his many years of devoted services to the Gallery and in extending to him our best wishes for a happy and productive future."

Mr. Cairns was born and educated in Baltimore, Maryland. He was graduated from Baltimore City College and the University of Maryland Law School, where he was awarded first prize for a thesis on the law of charitable trusts.

In 1926 he began the practice of law in Baltimore with the firm Piper, Carey & Hall. In 1935 he was awarded the Civic Medallion for the most significant contribution to the progress of Baltimore. He lectured at the University of Maryland Law School and served on the Maryland Tax Revision Commission.

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From 1937 to 1943 he was senior Assistant General Counsel of the United States Treasury Department.

During the war he also served as secretary and member of the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas, the so-called Roberts Commission appointed by President Roosevelt to function under the auspices of the Government. In 1946 the members of the Commission were cited by President Truman for their achievements of permanent value.

In 1951 he represented American museums generally before the Waverly Committee in London, which was considering the policy to be adopted by the British Government with respect to the export of works of art from the United Kingdom.

Mr. Cairns' major publications in the field of law are, "Law and the Social Sciences", 1935; "The Theory of Legal Science", 1941; and "Legal Philosophy from Plato to Hegel", 1949. In 1962 he was selected to deliver the distinguished Benjamin N. Cardozo Lectures of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

In 1961 he edited with Edith Hamilton the one-volume "Collected Dialogues of Plato".

He edited with John Walker, "Masterpieces of Painting from the National Gallery of Art", "Great Paintings from the National Gallery of Art", "Treasures from the National Gallery of Art", and "A Pageant of Painting from the National Gallery of Art" (in process). He collected and edited the anthology "The Limits of Art". With Allen Tate and Mark Van Doren he was one of the originators of the radio program "Invitation to Learning". He has been a lecturer on political science and criticism at Johns Hopkins University and published

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"Lectures in Criticism" in 1949.

He selected and edited and furnished an introduction and commentary for "H. L. Mencken, The American Scene, A Reader" published this spring.

He has contributed many articles on law and in other fields to various learned journals, symposia, and encyclopedias. He is a trustee of Bollingen Foundation, a trustee and president of the Textile Museum, Washington, D.C.; a trustee of the National Home Library Foundation, and a member of committees of the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, the Center for Hellenic Studies, the John Hay Whitney Foundation, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He has served as a director of the Fund for the Republic, and as a member of the Charles Eliot Norton Lecture Committee, at Harvard University, and the National Book Awards Committee.

Since 1934 he has been a special legal advisor to the Treasury Department on the enforcement of the customs statute which prohibits the importation of obscene material. He was a member of the Committee on Practice of the Treasury Department from 1944 to 1952.

Honorary degrees have been awarded to Mr. Cairns by New York University, Tulane University, University of Maryland, and Kenyon College. He has been selected to receive an honorary degree from Johns Hopkins University this June. He is a member of various learned societies and the American, Maryland, District of Columbia, and Federal Bar Associations.

Admiral Ernest R. Feidler, who has been Administrator of the Gallery since 1953, has been elected by the Board of Trustees of

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the Gallery to succeed Mr. Cairns as Secretary, Treasurer, and General Counsel. Mr. E. James Adams, who has been Mr. Cairns' assistant since 1950, will succeed Admiral Feidler as Administrator.

End

